



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

### **Reply to Helga Konrad, Special Representative on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings**

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Paul W. Jones  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
December 16, 2004

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

We would like to welcome Dr. Konrad and thank her for her report today.

The United States continues to strongly support OSCE efforts to combat trafficking in human beings.

We welcome the decision taken by the Ministerial Council in Sofia to put more focus in the OSCE on combating trafficking in children.

We were however very disappointed that one delegation blocked a decision on ensuring that international forces and missions contribute to preventing and combating trafficking in human beings. The aim of this decision was to gain a political commitment ensuring that OSCE personnel, the military forces of OSCE participating States deployed abroad with peacekeeping or other similar missions, and civilian contractors accompanying them, do not engage in trafficking in human beings or exploit victims of trafficking.

All OSCE States should agree that their military forces deployed abroad should not traffic human beings or support activities that fuel human trafficking or exploit victims. We hope that in the future all delegations will lend their strong support to these anti-trafficking initiatives.

Mr. Chairman, while we support the creation of the Alliance Against Trafficking, we continue to look forward to Dr. Konrad's organization of an annual meeting of national coordinators and other representatives designated by participating States, as mandated by the Maastricht Ministerial decision and the OSCE Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

We also look forward to discussing the results of the experts' meeting that we understand took place recently under the auspices of the Alliance Against Trafficking.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.